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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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19 June 1968Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Backs GDR Restrictions on
Berlin Access

The official East German news agency ADN reported on 18 June that Foreign Minister Hajek "welcomed" the East German restrictions on Berlin access "in view of the passing of the Bonn emergency laws." Hajek reportedly stated that the GDR measures are a "problem of GDR sovereignty," and expressed sympathy with "everything that contributes toward this sovereignty."

Hajek stressed that his official talks with Foreign Minister Winzer were conducted in a "cordial and friendly atmosphere" and again affirmed that problems relating to relations between the two states and to their common interests had been discussed.

Hajek was received at the highest levels by the East Germans, meeting on the 18th with Ulbricht, Stoph, Axen, and Winzer and other Foreign Ministry officials. This suggests that Pankow did not wish to miss the opportunity to do a bit of proselytizing; Hajek's statement to ADN suggests that the East German effort had some effect. Nonetheless, the apparent lack of a communique after an official visit and Hajek's reaffirmation that problems do exist between Prague and Pankow, suggest that the visit, from the East German standpoint, was not completely successful. 25X1

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Hajek To Meet Austrian Counterpart

The Czechoslovak Foreign Minister reportedly will host a meeting with Waldheim in Bratislava on 21 June, [REDACTED] 25X1

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[REDACTED] it accords with the mutual desire of both countries to resolve outstanding problems, including property claims, and to exchange views on current events in Czechoslovakia. 25X1

The New York Times on 18 June speculated that Hajek would journey from East Berlin to Warsaw and Budapest for consultations with his counterparts in those capitals, but we have seen nothing to confirm this. 25X1

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Problems in Timing of Polish Party Plenum

Conflicting information continues to be received from Warsaw about the scheduling and importance of the upcoming Polish party plenum, which by statute should be held before the end of the month. The plenum is to approve the party theses, and set a definite date for the fifth party congress during the "last quarter of 1968."

Early rumors indicated that the plenum would be held in late May. [redacted] recently told US Embassy officers, however, that it was rescheduled for mid-June, and then rescheduled again for 25-26 June. The latest information, coming from a knowledgeable Foreign Ministry official, is that the plenum will "definitely" be held in early July. There are some rumors, moreover, that the plenum will not be held at all.

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[redacted] party boss Gomulka is responsible for the postponements, while the provincial party apparatus is exerting strong pressure for an early conclave. This bolsters earlier indications that Gomulka is working busily behind the scenes, but remains uncertain of the degree of his support within the central committee.

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Avowed supporters of hardline leader and Interior Minister Moczar say that the plenum will merely formalize Moczar's factional victory within the party, with Moczar himself elevated to either the politburo or secretariat. Moczar's opposition, clustered around Gomulka, admits to running scared, but contends that nothing is yet settled, and that the plenum will contain few surprises. There seems to be consensus, however, that some personnel changes will be announced. These may include the dropping of former chief of state Ochab from the politburo, and some "adjustments" in the central committee membership.

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Hungarian Party Plenum Convenes

A plenum of the Hungarian party central committee was scheduled to convene in Budapest today, according to a Budapest radio announcement of 18 June. No agenda for the meeting has been made public, but Kadar's scheduled trip to Moscow later this month at the head of a party-government delegation probably tops the list.

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The plenum follows the opening in Budapest yesterday of the second session of the Communist multiparty preparatory committee to prepare drafts of documents for the November Moscow conference. The plenum also follows Czech party leader Dubcek's visit to Hungary last week, and Kadar is likely to report to the party on these talks. These issues, together with several economic questions, will probably be considered.

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Financial Stipend for Praxis Offset by Crack Down on its Editor

The controversial bi-monthly journal Praxis was voted an \$8,000 subsidy on 28 May by the Croatian government. Events in Czechoslovakia may have influenced the regime to end its policy of slow financial strangulation which had brought the liberal Marxist publication to the point of collapse.

The modest transfusion given Praxis was quickly offset, however, by the expulsion from the party on 7 June of Praxis chief editor, Gajo Petrovic, and two other Zagreb university figures. All were accused of adopting demagogic and "anarcho-liberal" positions which undermined the communist party.

Underlining the regime's stiffened attitude toward the extreme liberal intellectuals the joint conclusions of the Belgrade and Serbian party organizations on the student riots castigated those who advocate political struggle outside the present Yugoslav political system. This was a more explicit repetition of charges the regime hurled against some student elements during the rioting in Belgrade.

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Peking's Ambassador to Albania Remains in China

Liu Hsiao, Chinese Ambassador to Albania was last noted in Tirana in mid-August of 1967.

Since then his place at diplomatic functions had been taken by embassy chargé Liu Thing-Chuan. Liu Hsiao apparently has not fallen victim to the Chinese Cultural Revolution, nor is he known to suffer from ill health.

Hsiao's absence may be routine, since as only two of Peking's ambassadors are at their posts--in Cairo and Budapest. Given the unique role Albania plays in Chinese

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foreign affairs the possibility of a basic change in Chinese-Albanian relations cannot be discounted. In any event, Hsiao's absence and a marked reduction in the number of Chinese-Albanian exchange visits since the beginning of the year suggests the internal policies of both Tirana and Peking have priority over bilateral contacts.

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